Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing breast density ~~treatment~~, comprising administering 4-hydroxy tamoxifen percutaneously to a patient having class III or class IV dense breast composition ~~tissue~~.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said dense breast tissue is diffuse.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said dense breast tissue is nodular.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is in a vehicle containing a penetration enhancer.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is a racemic blend of *trans* and *cis* isomers.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is a *trans* isomer.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein greater than about 0.5 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is administered per day.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein greater than about 0.75 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is administered per day.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein greater than about 1.0 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is administered per day.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is formulated in a hydroalcoholic gel.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said hydroalcoholic gel comprises ethyl alcohol, isopropyl myristate, and hydroxypropylcellulose.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is formulated in an alcoholic solution.

13. (New) A method of diagnosing breast disease, comprising performing mammography on a patient having dense breast composition, wherein said patient has been percutaneously administered 4-hydroxy tamoxifen.

14. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is in a vehicle containing a penetration enhancer.

15. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is a racemic blend of *trans* and *cis* isomers.

16. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is a *trans* isomer.

17. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein greater than about 0.5 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen has been administered per day.

18. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein greater than about 0.75 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen has been administered per day.

19. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein greater than about 1.0 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen has been administered per day.

20. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is formulated in a hydroalcoholic gel.

21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein said hydroalcoholic gel comprises ethyl alcohol, isopropyl myristate, and hydroxypropylcellulose.

22. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said patient has class III or class IV dense breast composition.